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Quranic Arabic

From its Hijazi Origins to its Classical Reading Traditions

Author: Marijn van Putten

What was the language of the Quran like, and how do we know? Today, the Quran is recited in ten different reading traditions, whose linguistic details are mutually incompatible. This work uncovers the earliest linguistic layer of the Quran. It demonstrates that the text was composed in the Hijazi vernacular dialect, and that in the centuries that followed different reciters started to classicize the text to a new linguistic ideal, the ideal of the *ʿarabiyyah*. This study combines data from ancient Quranic manuscripts, the medieval Arabic grammarians and ample data from the Quranic reading traditions to arrive at new insights into the linguistic history of Quranic Arabic.

Readership

Everyone interested in the history of Arabic and the Quranic text and the early history of Classical Arabic and the Quranic reading traditions.

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Language: English

Subjects: Historical and Comparative Linguistics & Linguistic Typology, Languages and Linguistics, Linguistics, Ancient Near East and Egypt, Qur'anic Studies, Middle East and Islamic Studies, Afro-Asiatic Languages, Languages and Linguistics

Publisher: Brill

Series:
Studies in Semitic Languages and Linguistics, Volume: 106

E-Book (PDF)
Publication Date: 17 Feb 2022

ISBN: 978-90-04-50625-1

Hardback
Publication Date: 17 Feb 2022

ISBN: 978-90-04-50624-4

List price
EUR €125.00 / USD $149.00